

Message Text

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62

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SY-10 USSS-00

IO-14 SCCT-02 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 NEA-10 DRC-01

/127 W

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R 071536Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8494

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02910

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 38029

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, FAA REP AND CIVAIR ATTACHE SEPARATELY VISITED HEATHROW AIRPORT TO OBSERVE GENERAL SECURITY MEASURES IN FORCE THERE. THEIR OBSERVATIONS CONFIRMED SECURITY DEFICIENCIES NOTED REFTEL. NO UNIFORMED, ARMED OFFICERS EVIDENT AT SCREENING AREA/ BOARDING POSITION, RAMP ACCESS POINTS'OR IN VICINITY OF PARKED AIRCRAFT. SCREENING AREAS HAVE ONLY TELEPHONE LINK WITH AIRPORT SECURITY PLUS TIE-IN WITH AIRLINE INTERCOM SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, THEY NOTED THAT UNSCREENED ORIGINATING AND TRANSITING PASSENGERS

HAVE RELATIVELY EASY ACCESS THROUGH EMERGENCY DOORS TO APRON AREAS IN VICINITY OF PARKED AIRCRAFT. THEY ALSO OBSERVED THAT SEVERAL AIRLINE PERSONNEL WERE NOT WEARING IDENTIFICATION BADGES. TO EXTENT OBSERVED, SCREENING OF PASSENGERS AND CABIN BAGGAGE AT BOARDING POINTS APPEARED TO BE SATISFACTORY. FAIRLY CLOSE SCRUTINY, HOWEVER, FAILED TO REVEAL ANYONE
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WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN ARMED PLAINCLOTHES OFFICER IN

VICINITY OF SCREENING AREA.

2. WE WOULD EXPECT UK AUTHORITIES TO BE QUITE SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM BY US OF EXISTING SECURITY PRACTICES AT HEATHROW AT LEAST UNLESS SUCH CRITICISM WERE PUT FORWARD AS TACTFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS BY AIRPORT SECURITY EXPERTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN MEASURES SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED IN US. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT BEST WAY FOR USG TO ATTEMPT TO CLOSE WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE SERIOUS SECURITY GAPS AT HEATHROW WOULD BE FOR US TO SUGGEST IN LOW-KEY THAT FAA EXPERTS AND BRITISH COUNTERPARTS CONSULT INFORMALLY SO THAT EACH SIDE MAY PROFIT FROM OTHER'S EXPERIENCE. IF USG PREPARED TO AGREE TO SUCH A MEETING, WE WOULD SUGGEST IT TO BRITISH AUTHORITIES. PLEASE ADVISE.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 07 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ETRN, UK, US, FAA, HEATHROW AIRPORT
To: STATE
Type: TE
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